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Social development

Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution

Persons with albinism

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[3] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[7]

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 24/33 of 27 September 2013 on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism,[8]

Recalling also its resolution 69/170 of 18 December 2014, by which it decided to proclaim 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day, with effect from 2015, and Human Rights Council resolution 28/6 of 26 March 2015,[9] by which the Council established the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.
[4] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).
[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[9] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/70/53), chap. III, sect. A.

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Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on social development challenges faced by persons with albinism and the recommendations contained therein,[10]

Taking note also of the preliminary report on persons with albinism submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,[11]

Taking note further of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolution 263 of 5 November 2013 on the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism,

Expressing concern at the attacks against persons with albinism, including women and children,

Welcoming the steps taken and the efforts made by the countries concerned, including the initiation of legal action against perpetrators of attacks against persons with albinism, public condemnation of attacks against persons with albinism and public campaigns to raise awareness,

Expressing concern that persons with albinism are disproportionately affected by poverty, owing to the discrimination and marginalization they face on grounds of disability, colour, gender, race and age, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need for resources to develop and implement programmes to prevent and combat prejudice and to create an environment conducive to respect for their rights and dignity,

Expressing concern also that women and girls face particular forms of discrimination, including higher risk of sexual abuse, especially in communities where they are believed to have the power to cure HIV and AIDS, including being targets of witchcraft-related attacks,

Encouraging the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[12] which provides an important policy framework for promoting the social inclusion of persons with albinism,

Expressing concern about the absence of disaggregated data at national, regional and international levels on the social situation of persons with albinism,

Recognizing that access to employment and other income generating opportunities is an essential aspect of participation in social life,

Recognizing also the social development challenges affecting persons with albinism and that social inclusion enables persons with albinism to reach their full potential,

Reaffirming the need for the participation of persons with albinism in development efforts at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard stressing the need to strengthen the effectiveness of national, regional and international policy and development programmes affecting persons with albinism,

1. *Encourages* Member States to continue to meet their obligations to uphold the rights of persons of albinism, including the rights to life, liberty, security of person, education, work, an adequate standard of living and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

[10] A/72/169.
[11] A/HRC/24/57.
[12] Resolution 70/1.

2. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt national action plans and legislation on the rights of persons with albinism, in conformity with international human rights standards, notably the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[4] and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;[5]

3. *Calls upon* States to address the root causes of discrimination against persons with albinism, including through awareness raising campaigns, and to disseminate accurate information on albinism and on the integration of persons with albinism into educational curricula;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt and ensure the effective implementation of positive measures to promote access to education and health-care services, including employment and access to income-generating activities for persons with albinism, for the full implementation and enjoyment of the rights of persons with albinism;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to States in support of measures that seek to prevent and combat discrimination against persons with albinism, including strengthening of the capacity of the health-care system to provide affordable dermatological and ophthalmological services, and to strengthen the capacity of the educational system to include pupils with albinism;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to collect, compile and disseminate disaggregated data on persons with albinism in order to identify patterns of discrimination and assess progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Encourages* Member States to develop policies and measures to address the social development challenges faced by persons with albinism and to recognize persons with albinism as persons with impairment, who should enjoy specific benefits and rights granted to that population, notably in fields of education, employment and health, and to ensure their participation in political, civil, social and cultural life;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue presenting a biennial comprehensive report, within the existing resources and mechanisms, including the report of the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-fourth second session, under the item entitled "Social development", on the various social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, taking into consideration the specific needs of women and children, including those related to social inclusion, health, education and employment, and measures taken, with recommendations for further action to be taken by Member States and other relevant stakeholders to address identified challenges, and encourages the Secretary-General to gather information from all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for the preparation of the report;

9. *Decides*, taking into account the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by persons with albinism, to consider the issue of persons with albinism at its seventy-fourth second session, under the item entitled "Social development".